

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 IGA-02 /025 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJ: MISSION IN HOUSE MINI-COMPUTER

REF: 17235, 12/14/76

1. OFFICE OF DATA MANAGEMENT WILL BE GLAD TO UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY STUDY AS REQUESTED. TIMING OF TDY DEPENDENT UPON MISSION PREFERENCES AND RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED BELOW. IF TDY ASISTANCE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BELOW, PLEASE ADVISE.

2. LOCAL MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY AND VENDOR SUPPORT IS A MAJOR CONSIDERATION. PROLIFERATION OF HARDWARE IN MINI-COMPUTER AREA MAKES IT ESSENTIAL THAT SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS, AS WELL AS HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

BE VERY CAREFULLY DEFINED. THERE ARE PRESENTLY 65 MINI-COMPUTER MANUFACTURERS IN THE U.S. OFFERING 275 DIFFERENT MIN-COMPUTER MODELS. PROCUREMENT OF MIN-COMPUTERS FALLS UNDER GSA REQUIEMENTS FOR ADP EQUIPMENT REQUIRING COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT UNDER RFP PROCEDURES.

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3. SUGGEST MISSION CAN MORE READILY DETERMINE WHICH, IF ANY, U.S. COMPUTER EQUIPMENT VENDORS MAINTAIN OFFICES IN CAIRO. THIS DATA COULD BE USED TO DETERMINE AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT PRIOR

TO TDY. ALSO WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MISSION COULD DETERMINE THE AVAILABILITY OF COMPUTER TIME-SHARRING SERVICES, AS POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE

TO MINI-COMPUTER.

4. REQUEST MISSION FORWARD BY POUCH DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT NON-AUTOMATED SYSTEMS DESCRIBED IN REFERENCED CABLE. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SOME OF THE APPLICATIONS LISTED ARE ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE AT THIS POINT.

5. WE NOTE THAT SOME OF THE APPLICATIONS LISTED, E.G. SUEZ CEMENT CO PARA. 4, REFCABLE, ARE IN PROJECT AREA. WHAT TYPE OF FUNDING DOES MISSION CONTEMPLATE FOR THIS PURPOSE? ALSO, WISH TO ADVISE MISSION THAT AID'S ENTIRE BUDGET/EXPENDITURES IN ADP AREA ARE SUBJECT TO LINE-ITEM CONTROL BY OMB. THERE MAY BE SOME FLEXIBILITY WITHIN AID'S TOTAL OMB-IMPOSED CEILING FOR FY 77 ADP EXPENDITURES IF COSTS ARE MET FROM FUNDS ALREADY INCLUDED IN MISSION'S FY 77 BUDGET.

6. FYI, AID IS CURRENTLY EXPLORING THE FEASIBILITY OF COMPUTER CAPABILITY AT MISSION LEVEL AS A BY-PRODUCT OF DIRECT DATA COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN AID/W AND FIELD. PROJECT HAS TOP MANAGEMENT SUPPORT. WILL KEEP YOU APPRISED OF STATUS THIS PROJECT.

ROBINSON

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